Replace the paragraphs starting on lines 9 and lines 15 of page 10 with the following paragraphs as marked up.

According to the preferred embodiment, the reinforcing ring 20 is made of a rigid material, such as steel, but may be made of any other suitable material such as nylon or plastic. The width of the reinforcing ring 20 is only that that is necessary to support the inner sleeve [40'] 40 concentric with the area of peak crimp force 36. The reinforcing ring is as discrete as possible and is therefore not subject to beam deflection as are reinforcements of the prior art.

Still referring to Fig. 2, the outer diameter of the reinforcing [member] ring 20 is slightly larger than the inner diameter 50 of the inner sleeve 40. The reinforcing [member] ring 20 is press fit into the inner diameter 50 of the inner sleeve 40. The press-fit may be controlled by a stop on a mandrel press (not shown), to ensure the reinforcing member 20 is properly located within the inner sleeve 40.

In the Claims

Please amend Claim 6 as follows:

6. (Amended) A hose coupling having an area of peak crimp force, said hose coupling comprising[;]:

an inner sleeve having a first end, a second end opposite said first end, and a pair of annular upset beads therebetween, said inner sleeve further having an inner diameter and an outer diameter thereon, said inner diameter having at least one groove therein, said outer diameter having at least one projection thereon;

a hose having an inner diameter positioned over said outer diameter of said inner sleeve, wherein said at least one projection of said inner sleeve interlocks with said hose to resist axial movement of said hose relative to said hose coupling;